

CLAIMS

1. A method for treating stroke said method comprising:
 - a) administering a defibrinogenating agent to a patient in need of such treatment at a rate sufficient to achieve rapid initial defibrinogenation;
 - b) ceasing administration of said defibrinogenating agent after about 15 min to 12 hours; and
 - b) allowing normalization of fibrinogen levels to occur without further administration of said defibrinogenating agent.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein initial defibrinogenation occurs at a rate of ≥ 20 mg/dL/hr.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein initial defibrinogenation occurs at a rate of ≥ 30 mg/dL/hr.
4. The method of claim 4, wherein the defibrinogenating agent is ancrod.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the defibrinogenating agent is administered as a single dose of about 0.05- 1.25 IU/kg/hr.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the defibrinogenating agent is administered as a single dose of about 0.1- 0.2 IU/kg/hr.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the defibrinogenating agent is administered as a single dose at a rate of about 0.14-0.175 IU/kg/hr.
8. The method of claim 1 where the defibrinogenating agent is administered intravenously.

9. A method for treating stroke said method comprising:

a) administering a defibrinogenating agent to a patient in need of such treatment at a rate of about 0.10-1.5 IU/kg/hr;

b) ceasing administration of the defibrinogenating agent after about 15 min to 12 hours; and

c) allowing normalization of fibrinogen levels to occur without further administration of said defibrinogenating agent.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said defibrinogenating agent is administered from about 30 minutes to 6 hours.

11. The method of claim 9 where the defibrinogenating agent is administered intravenously.